<u>TED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

APPLICANT: Mark J. Burzynski et al

JUL 0 7 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 3764

SERIAL NO.: 09/360,877

: EXAMINER: D. Blyveis

FILING DATE: July 23, 1999

TITLE: SELF-BLUNTING NEEDLE MEDICAL : ATTY. DOCKET: P-1522-1

DEVICES AND METHODS OF

MANUFACTURE THEREOF

## **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

**Assistant Commissioner For Patents** 

June 28, 2000

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the office action mailed June 5, 2000 in the captioned application.

## **AMENDMENTS**

## In the Drawings

A proposed amendment to Figure 2 is shown in red on the enclosed copy of ure.

## In the Claims

Amend the claims as/follows.

Cancel claims 1/6-30 and 4/3-4

34. (Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the guide surface defines an entry aperture that is larger than the through-bore of the external component and converges to a gate aperture that is not larger than the through-bore of the external component, the gate aperture facing and being aligned with the through-bore, the method comprising aligning the internal component with the entry aperture and advancing the internal component towards the external component so that the internal component passes through the entry aperture, into contact with the guide surface and then through the [exit] gate aperture and into the bore.